

Craigellachie Village Council

Covid Community Update July 2020

Craigellachie Village Council is a registered charity responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the village hall, football pitch, tennis courts and tennis pavilion. We also pay for the lighting of the Craigellachie Bridge. So, what have the Craigellachie Village Council been doing for the community during lockdown?

Help and Support

On 18 March 2020 the Village Council distributed a note to every household in the village providing the contact details for a member of the Village Council who would be able to help with delivering shopping; posting mail; collecting prescriptions; obtaining urgent supplies; or simply chatting on the phone during the coronavirus pandemic.

We have since responded to various requests for assistance from those self-isolating or shielding, and we would like to take this opportunity to remind villagers, and anyone living out with the village boundaries, that we are here to support you as best we can. If there is anything more you feel the Village Council could be doing to improve the lives of residents, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will endeavour to do our best to help. All ideas welcome!

Defibrillator – relocated to Village Hall

You may recall several years ago, the Aberlour & Speyside Rotary Club donated a defibrillator to the village, which was located in the Craigellachie Hotel. Unfortunately, the Craigellachie Hotel had to close due to coronavirus, which meant the defibrillator was locked inside the hotel.

With help and support from Keirans Legacy, we have been able to move the defibrillator from the hotel into a new secure steel cabinet, which has been hard wired to the outside wall of the Craigellachie Village Hall, between the front door and the back door. Our thanks to Keirans Legacy for the secure cabinet; to Campbell & McHardy for installing cabinet; Gordon & Ena Baxter Foundation and Berryburn Community Fund for providing funding to help with publicising the new location and signage costs.

Anyone requiring the defibrillator should dial 999 from their own landline or mobile phone and the emergency service will provide you with the code to unlock the cabinet to obtain the defibrillator. The unit will then talk users through what they need to do to operate the defibrillator – no prior training is required.



Facebook



We have been making good use of social media during lockdown. If you have not “liked” us, please have a look at the Craigellachie Village Council Facebook page.

As well as being a platform to share local information, we have also used it to appeal for help or assistance – which has proved particularly useful. For those of you who may have been unable to get out and about as much as before, we have also been sharing photos of local landmarks and flora on Facebook.

Painting

In May, we sought assistance to paint the tractor shed at the football pitch, as it was in desperate need of a coat of paint. We supplied the paint and the brushes and were delighted when a team of volunteers came along and did an excellent job painting the shed. A big thank you to the volunteers – the shed is looking great!



Summer bedding

Although the cancellation of fundraising events will impact on the income generated to fund village amenities this year, the Village Council felt having a colourful environment for local people to enjoy was particularly important in the current pandemic.

We put out an appeal on Facebook asking if anyone had spare bedding plants and we had several people donate flowers and funds. We also received a generous financial donation from Aberlour & Speyside Rotary Club towards the cost of plants. Accordingly, the summer floral displays have been planted and we are delighted to welcome some new volunteers to the team who water and tend the tubs on a daily basis.



We are again grateful to Craigellachie Filling Station for offering us a discounted price for the bedding plants.



Village Hall

When we went into lockdown our income and fundraising ceased, but like everyone else, we continued to have bills to pay. We were fortunate to receive a share of funds from a Resilience Fund, to which the Speyside Community Council had applied, and this helped pay hall keeper and groundsman expenses during the pandemic. In addition, we applied for funding assistance from the Small Business Grant Scheme.

The loss of income from this year's fundraising events, coupled with the uncertainty of how long our grant funders will allow us to extend the deadlines for using grant funding, means the prospect of building the proposed village hall extension is now very uncertain.

On a more positive note, we now have a new sound system in the village hall and intend installing a loop system to assist those with hearing aids.



At the time of printing this leaflet, we do not know when we will be able to open the hall to user groups. Whenever it is, we will have to adhere to any constraints imposed once lockdown is over, and hopefully advice on complying once restrictions are lifted will become clearer for village halls in due course.



Scrubs

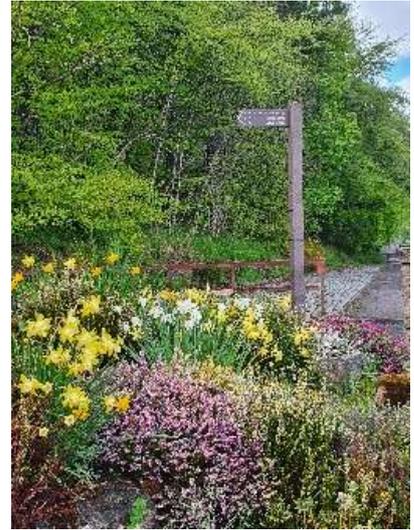
In early April, we were delighted to act as a collection point for duvet covers, which a lady from the village utilised to sew scrubs for Dr Gray's Hospital staff. Thank you to those who donated duvet covers and enabled the volunteer to produce much needed scrubs. The doctors and nurses looked great in their new scrubs.

Get fit with Kenny!

You may have heard about Craigellachie's very own "Joe Wicks", in the form of Kenny Wilson, who has been leading not only Craigellachie, but also the rest of Moray and Scotland, with an intense workout and exercises twice a week at <https://www.facebook.com/pg/sportinmoray/videos> Tune in a Tuesday and Thursday at 2pm for the latest workout. Some may say it is exhausting just watching him! Well done Kenny, keep up the good work.

Help with weeding

The rockery at the Rothes end of the A941 bridge had become very overgrown with vetch and dandelions during lockdown, but has recently been weeded and tidied up. However, the vetch roots are deeply embedded below the concrete foundations of the rockery and will continue to appear, proving to be an ongoing challenge. If you are passing the rockery and notice the weeds getting out of hand, please feel free to lend a hand by removing some of the uninvited flora! We are all for enjoying native plants and the contribution they make to the insect population, but when they get out of hand a wee reminder to leave room for the heathers will not go amiss!



Dog poo disposal

We were approached about the increased amount of dog poo lying around the village. It seems to be a particular problem in the Fiddich Park, the steps leading down to the Fiddich Park, around the Craigellachie Bridge and riverbank, and even outside the school. We would politely ask all dog owners to clear up after their pet and dispose of it properly in a bin or take it home to their own bin.



To help get the message across some of the children from the school will be making posters and we are going to trial “dog poo bag dispensers” throughout the village. For anyone unable to pick up their dog poo because they have forgotten a dog bag – we can come to your rescue! If you need a bag, please take one from the dog bag dispensers (which will be placed around the village) and pick up after your pet.

Volunteers

New volunteers to help with the work of the Craigellachie Village Council will always be made very welcome, and if you are new to the village it is a good way of getting to know people. If you would like to offer your assistance please get in touch. We can be contacted via our Facebook page, website or have a word with one of our office bearers: Jane Tweedie (Chairperson), Brenda Cooper (Secretary), Ken Fraser (Treasurer) or Moira Tweedie (Vice Chairperson).

Keep safe and well. We hope the knowledge that the community is thinking about you, and caring for your wellbeing, will be a reassurance to you and your family. In the meantime, if you or anyone you know requires assistance, please let one of the undersigned know and we will do our utmost to help.

Best wishes from Craigellachie Village Council